

**From:** Michael L Anderson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am very disappointed with the Department of Justice's proposed settlement with the Microsoft Corporation, which amounts to another consent decree. Unfortunately, Microsoft has already demonstrated beyond any reasonable doubt that it has no respect for consent decrees; its egregious violations of the 1995 consent decree are what brought about the current case.

Those familiar with the computer industry are well aware that Microsoft's success has less to do with superior products (most experts agree its products are of generally mediocre quality at best), and more to do with its ability to leverage its monopoly in the operating system market, in which Windows has become the de facto standard. Its recent pricing changes with respect to Office and Windows business sales - nearly doubling the price of the licenses and now literally forcing business to buy its upgrades, even when they don't want them - demonstrate blatant abuse of its monopoly power, in the face of an ongoing anti-trust case no less! Any other business would lose enormous amounts of sales if it doubled the price of its product without substantially improving the quality, but Microsoft's market power is so extensive that it can do so with near impunity.

The demonstrated ineffectiveness of consent decrees with respect to Microsoft, and the company's continuing abuse of its monopoly power, call for strong and effective remedies. Regulatory remedies in which the government directly supervises and dictates Microsoft's behavior are undesirable for obvious reasons. Instead, the Department of Justice should push for significant structural remedies, such as the breakup originally proposed by Judge Jackson. Only then will consumers benefit and will competition and innovation, the hallmarks of our great economic system, continue to flourish.

Sincerely,  
Michael Anderson